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FM AMCONSUL KOLKATA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1452  
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1358  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0587  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0593  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0369  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0235  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0372  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 1790

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SUBJECT: ASSAM -- NATIONAL GAMES OVER, ULFA CONTINUES ATTACKS

REF: KOLKATA 00011, KOLKATA 00016

11. (U) Summary: On March 9, the terrorist group United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) continued its campaign of bombs and attacks in Assam, setting off a bomb in a crowded marketplace. The group also indicates that it will step up its attacks, including by targeting Congress Party officials, hoping to once again to force the GOI to initiate talks on sovereignty for Assam. The brief respite from attacks enjoyed since the India National Games in February is clearly over. End Summary.

12. (U) On March 9, one person was killed and 18 wounded by a powerful bomb at a marketplace in Kakopathar, in the Northeast Indian state of Assam. The explosion took place outside a shop a couple of minutes after the shop-owner informed the police about an unclaimed bag in the vicinity. Seven members of the shop-owner's family were wounded, one of whom later died in a hospital. On March 10, militants ambushed and shot dead the Anchalik Panchayat President of Hajo while members the Congress's central leadership - Digvijay Singh and Chandan Bagchi -- were on a confidence-building tour of Assam in the run-up to the panchayat (village) elections scheduled for May. The visit was aimed at boosting the morale of demoralized Congress Party workers following the killing of 8 grassroots workers in January. State Congress leaders have since requested Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi for security protection for Congress party workers.

13. (SBU) An Assam Police intelligence official told post that ULFA is responsible for all these killings. The group has resumed its activities after the conclusion of the National Games on February 18, and more attacks are expected with the approach of India's Army Day on March 16 and ULFA's "Raising Day" on April 7. Police are apparently already finding more bombs throughout state. ULFA has expressed its willingness to hold talks with the GOI provided the issue of sovereignty will be discussed, but the government is so far unwilling to accept this condition.

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